

THE WAR ON DRUNK DRIVING



Drivers
under age 21
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IT WAS SO EASY TO LOSE IT



Driving is perhaps the ultimate statement of independence for a teenager. But having a driver's license also is a privilege that comes with responsibility.

In Illinois, drivers under 21 who are caught with alcohol or drugs in their systems face serious consequences, including losing their driving privileges. Simply put, "Use It & Lose It."

By drinking and driving, you stand to lose even more than your driver's license—you could lose your life. Automobile crashes are the No. 1 cause of death among young people. Nearly half are alcohol-related.

Teenagers today face a lot of tough decisions. I urge you to think twice before drinking and getting behind the wheel. It's not only against the law, it could kill you, your friends and innocent people who share the road with you. You have much to look forward to in life, so be safe, stay strong and drive sober.

Jesse White

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State

DEPOSITORY

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

USE IT & LOSE IT

Under the "Use It & Lose It" zero tolerance law, drivers under age 21 with any trace of alcohol in their systems will lose their driving privileges. Persons under 21 also can be charged with a DUI if they have a BAC of .08, any drugs in their systems, or other indications of impaired driving. The penalties for zero tolerance and DUI are outlined in the chart below. A zero tolerance offense involves administrative penalties. A DUI conviction involves both administrative and criminal penalties and will result in both the revocation of your driver's license and the suspension of vehicle registration privileges. Also listed below are some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the law. If you have additional questions, please contact Secretary White's office at the phone number or address on the back of this brochure.

Q: What leads to testing for alcohol?

A: A police officer will test for alcohol if, after issuing a citation for any traffic offense, he or she has probable cause to believe a driver has consumed alcohol. Based on the driver's physical condition or the police officer's first-hand knowledge, a test may be requested.

Q: Aside from the loss of driving privileges and possible fines and jail time, what other consequences can drinking and driving have?

A: High insurance costs, mandatory alcohol evaluation and treatment, court and attorney fees, and negative long-term effects on driving record and job opportunities.

"Use It & Lose It" Penalties

	loss of driving privileges	effect on driving record
test failure 1st violation	3 months	"Use It & Lose It" suspension on public record during suspension period. Does not appear after that unless there is a subsequent suspension
test refusal 1st violation	6 months	
test failure 2nd violation	1 year	
test refusal 2nd violation	2 years	

Under 21 DUI Penalties

	loss of driving privileges	effect on driving record
DUI 1st offense	2 years minimum	DUI conviction is permanently on driving record
DUI 2nd offense	until age 21 or 5 years minimum	

Q: Are there any exceptions to suspension?

A: The only people not subject to this law are those who consumed alcohol in a religious service or ceremony or those who ingested a prescribed or recommended dosage of medicine that contained alcohol. This evidence can be presented at an administrative hearing and does not require a court appearance.

Q: Are there any conditions under which a person can drive while suspended?

A: For drivers over age 18, a restricted driving permit may be issued after a portion of the suspension period has passed to relieve undue hardship. It may allow driving for specific employment, educational, or medical purposes.



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Illegal Transportation: There's no free ride

Drinking and driving is not the only alcohol-related offense. It is also illegal to transport alcoholic beverages in the passenger area of a vehicle unless the beverages are in their original sealed containers. No matter whom the alcohol belongs to, everyone in the vehicle can be charged with illegal transportation. If you are driving the vehicle, your driving privileges will be suspended for 12 months for the first offense. A second offense will result in the revocation of your driving and vehicle registration privileges.

Parental Responsibility:

Your parents should know that it is a Class A misdemeanor, with a possible fine of \$2,500, to knowingly allow individuals to gather at a residence when the individuals are under age 21 and are drinking.

Curfews: Do you know what time it is?

State law establishes 11 p.m. weekday and midnight weekend curfews for persons under age 17. Communities may establish earlier curfews. Your driver's license may be invalid when the curfews are in effect.

For information on the Secretary of State's alcohol education programs, contact:

Driver Services Department
Traffic Safety Division
2701 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62723
(217)785-1444 • 1-800-252-2904 (TTY)
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

This brochure condenses and paraphrases the language of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and does not reflect all legal aspects of DUI for the under-21 driver.



"What would you tell your best friend to discourage him or her from drinking and driving?"



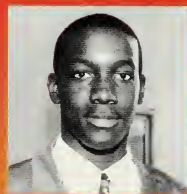
"Have the courage to speak out. Drinking and driving is not a game, it is a serious offense that destroys life and can never be

fixed. Teach others to have respect for others and themselves. Be high on life, not alcohol."

— Kelli Rakers, Freeburg Community High School, Freeburg

"Alcohol and cars are like acid and base, you try to mix them and they'll blow up in your face."

— Damon Perry, Kenwood Academy, Chicago



"If someone thinks you're not cool because you don't drink, then they don't know you very well. You are a special friend, and I like

you just the way you are — alive!"

— Emily Elizabeth Benecke, Marengo High School, Marengo

